

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 00337 01 OF 02 162139Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
HA-05 AID-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SIL-01  
LAB-04 /078 W

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O P 162038Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7828  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTIAGO 0337

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, ELAB, OEXC, CI  
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON BANISHED CHILEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

REF: SANTIAGO 0300 (NOTAL) B) GENEVA 588

1. SUMMARY: THE DOZEN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC) DETAINED JANUARY 13 ARRIVED AT THEIR DESTINATIONS IN REMOTE NORTHERN SITES JANUARY 14. THE RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE HAS ASKED GENEVA'S AUTHORIZATION TO GET HIS DOCTOR TO THE AREA LATER THIS WEEK. THE GOC MOVED QUICKLY TO EFFECT THE BANISHMENT, RELYING ON STATE OF SEIGE EXECUTIVE POWERS. MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR THE EVENING OF JANUARY 15, PDC LEADERS SAID THEY VIEWED THE GOC'S ACTION AS A WARNING, BUT ADDED THAT IT MAY BE THE FIRST HINT OF THE ACROSS-THE-BOARD CRACKDOWN THAT GENERAL LEIGH HAS WARNED OF. THE EEC MAY CALL IN THE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR. END SUMMARY.

2. CARABINEROS HUSTLED 12 CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS OF THE MAIN-STREAM LEFT OFF TO THE AIRPORT AT 0800 JANUARY 14 JUST AN HOUR BEFORE RELATIVES APPEARED AT THE JAIL RELYING ON GOC ASSURANCES THAT THEY COULD SEE THEM AT THAT TIME. THE 12  
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 00337 01 OF 02 162139Z

ARRIVED AT ARICA EARLY THE 14TH AND WERE SENT IN PAIRS TO REMOTE (AND WITH BUT ONE EXCPETION) MISERABLE WAY STATIONS IN THE HARSH ALTIPLANO AS FOLLOWS:

-- ANDRES AYLWIN AND JUAN REYES SALDIAS TO GUALLATIRI  
(THIS REPORTEDLY IS A COLLECTION OF THATCH/LEAN-TOS USED BY HIGHLAND INDIANS AS THEY DRIFT THROUGH THE AREA FOLLOWING

GRAZING FLOCKS. AT 12,800 FT. IT IS FOUR HOURS BY  
4-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLE FROM PUTRE.)

-- GULLERMO YUNGE BUSTAMANTE AND SAMUEL ASTORGA  
JOQUERA TO CHAPIQUINA (SAID TO BE A COMPARABLE SPOT).

-- JUAN SEPULVEDA MALBRAN AND HERNAN MERY TORO TO  
PUTRE (ONE OF THE MORE DESIRABLE OF THE SITES IN THAT IT  
IS NORMALLY ACCESSIBLE DURING THE RAINY SEASON AND CONTAINS  
ACTUAL BUILDINGS AND FOOD SUPPLIES).

-- BELISARIO VELASCO AND ENRIQUE HERNANDEZ ANDRADE TO  
PARINACOTA.

-- ELIAS SANCHEZ CABEZAS AND TOMAS REYES VICUNA TO  
CHUCUYO (ACCESSIBLE FROM PUTRE, LOCATED AT 13,400 FEET  
AND SIMILAR TO AYLWIN'S SITE--BUT REPORTEDLY REYES WILL GO  
TO CODPA -- SEE BELOW).

-- GEORGINA ACEITUNO SAAVEDRA AND IGNACIO BALBONTIN  
ARTEAGA TO CODPA (NEAR SEA LEVEL IN THE ATACAMA DESERT,  
ADEQUATE QUARTERS AND FOOD SUPPLIES).

3. EX-SENATORS TOMAS RYES AND ANDRES AYLWIN BOTH HAVE  
HEALTH PROBLEMS -- REYES, IN HIS MID-60'S REPORTEDLY  
SUFFERS FROM A DIABETIC CONDITION AND HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE;  
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PAGE 03 SANTIA 00337 01 OF 02 162139Z

AYLWIN HAS BRONCHIAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATE WITH ARRESTED TB.  
AYLWIN ACCORDING TO THE PDC, WAS EVACUATED TO PUTRE WHEN HE SUFFERED  
ALTITUDE SICKNESS BUT WAS RETURNED TO GUALLATIRI ONCE HE  
RECOVERED FROM THE INITIAL ATTACK. EDUARDO FREI CALLED  
NORTHERN ZONE COMMANDER, GENERAL TORO, JANUARY 15 AND WAS  
ASSURED THAT REYES' MEDICAL PROBLEMS WOULD BE ATTENDED TO.  
WE HAVE JUST LEARNED HE IS IN CODPA, NEAR SEA LEVEL.

4. WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH LOCAL ICRC REPRESENTATIVE RUEFLI WHO  
TELLS US THAT HE HAS ASKED GENEVA'S PERMISSION TO GO TO THE  
AREA HIMSELF EVENTUALLY AND TO BRING THE ICRC DOCTOR BACK  
FROM BUENOS AIRES AND GET HIM IN THE NORTH BY LATER THIS WEEK.  
(FYI: LOCAL ICRC REPRESENTATIVE TOLD US CONFIDENTIALLY THAT  
NESSI (ICRC GENEVA) WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT RUEFLI'S  
PROPOSED TRIP TO VISIT LABOR LEADERS IN SAME AREA LAST MONTH.)

5. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, SOME 16 PEOPLE WERE DETAINED IN  
CONNECTION WITH A MEETING HELD AT YOUTH LEADER YUNGE'S  
DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO OFFICE. LABOR SOURCES SAY THAT THE  
GATHERING WAS TO DISCUSS MODERATE PDC POLICY TOWARD CUTS  
IN THE BUDGET OF THE CARDIJN FOUNDATION, A CHURCH-RELATED  
LABOR SUPPORT ORGANIZATION. A WEEK OR SO EARLIER MORE

RADICAL PDCERS WORKING AT THE CARDIJN HAD BRIEFLY SEIZED THE PREMISES OBJECTING TO PERSONNEL CUTS. THE GOC MUST HAVE BEEN CONFIDENT THAT THE MEETING WOULD BE A LONG ONE SINCE THEY ALERTED THE MEDIA AND MADE THEIR RAID AN HOUR AFTER THE SESSION STARTED.

6. WE STILL ARE NOT SURE JUST WHAT LEGAL AUTHORITY THE GOC USED. VIOLATION OF THE POLITICAL RECESS HAS BEEN MADE A CRIME UNDER VARIOUS DECREE LAWS. IT APPEARS THE GOC USED ITS EXECUTIVE POWERS UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE TO DETAIN AND BANISH THE GROUP.

7. PDC PRESIDENT ANDRES ZALDIVAR AND FREI LIEUTENANT RAUL TRONCOSO MET WITH THE AMBASSADOR THE EVENING OF JANUARY 15.  
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PAGE 04 SANTIA 00337 01 OF 02 162139Z

ZALDIVAR DESCRIBED THE GOC'S ACTIONS AS "MORBID." THE PAIR EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE HEALTH OF REYES AND AYLWIN, BUT SEEMED COMFORTED BY THE RESPONSE FREI RECEIVED FROM GENERAL TORO (PARAGRAPH 3). THEY HOPED THAT A VISIT BY THE RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE WOULD DETER THE GOC FROM IMPOSING SUCH HARSH BANISHMENTS IN THE FUTURE AS WELL AS MITIGATING CONDITIONS FOR THE 12. THEY SAID THAT ALTHOUGH BANISHMENT IS TRADITIONAL IN CHILE, NEVER BEFORE THE PRESENT REGIME HAVE PEOPLE BEEN SENT TO SUCH HAZARDOUS AREAS.

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 00337 02 OF 02 162141Z  
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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 SANTIAGO 0337

8. ZALDIVAR TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT AT A TIME WHEN CHILE NEEDED ALL THE SUPPORT IT COULD GET IN THE BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE, THE GOC'S ACTION WAS PARTICULARLY INEPT. ALTHOUGH HE PREFERRED TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOC HAS LEAPED AT A CHANCE TO TEACH THE OPPOSITION A LESSON, HE FEARED THAT THE DETENTIONS MIGHT SIGNAL THE BEGINNING OF THE ACROSS-THE-BOARD CRACKDOWN GENERAL LEIGH HAS BEEN PREDICTING. ZALDIVAR ADDED THAT MANY AIR FORCE AND NAVY OFFICERS WERE UNHAPPY WITH THE BANISHMENTS. ZALDIVAR JUST WANTED TO BRING US UP TO DATE AND HAD NO SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR US REACTION. HE NOTED THAT TOO ACTIVE A FOREIGN ROLE MIGHT TEND TO DELAY THE RELEASE OF THE TWELVE.

9. THE DANISH CHARGE CAME TO THE EMBASSY JANUARY 16 IN HIS CAPACITY AS LEADER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. HE SAID HIS COLLEAGUES WERE PARTICULARLY UPSET THAT WELL-KNOWN ANTI-MARXIST POLITICIANS WERE BEING SUBJECTED TO SUCH REPRESSION. THE LOCAL GROUP WOULD PROBABLY URGE THE EEC TO CALL IN THE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR AT COPENHAGEN TO EXPRESS CONCERN, AND IT INCLINED TOWARD ISSUING A PUBLIC STATEMENT. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUERY, WE SAID THAT WE HAD NO WORD ON WHAT THE DEPARTMENT PLANNED BUT DID NOT RULE OUT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 00337 02 OF 02 162141Z

THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING WITH CAUAS.

10. COMMENT: WE TEND TO SUBSCRIBE TO ZALDIVAR'S THEORY THAT THE GOC TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE MEETING AS AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER POLITICIANS RATHER THAN AS THE FIRST STEP IN A CALCULATED SWEEP. THE SEVERITY AND CALLOUSNESS OF THE SANCTION IS NOT UNPRECEDENTED, BUT REYES AND AYLWIN ARE THE BEST KNOWN POLITICAL FIGURES YET AFFECTED.

11. THE STEPS ALREADY TAKEN AND UNDERWAY APPEAR TO HAVE GREATLY REDUCED THE THREAT TO REYES' AND AYLWIN'S HEALTH AND WILL START THE PROCESS OF PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE GOC. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE A LENGTHY BANISHMENT (THE LABOR LEADERS GOT OUT IN ABOUT A MONTH). WE ASSUME THAT DEBATE WITHIN THE GOC WILL BE SPEARHEADED BY THOSE WORKING ON THE BEAGLE CHANNEL ISSUE IN WHICH THE GOC IS BASING ITS FORMAL POSITION ON STRICT ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES AND SEEKING WORLD SUPPORT.

12. FOR GENEVA: WE THINK IT IS A GOOD IDEA FOR THE RED CROSS TO GET UP AND SEE THE TWELVE AND VERIFY THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THEY ARE LIVING. THE DOCTOR WOULD BE A GOOD START. IN ANY CONTACTS WITH THE ICRC THE FACT THAT WE HAVE HEARD OF NESSI'S RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY

PROTECTED.

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## Message Attributes

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